

is supplying its HI-STORM dry cask storage system and other equipment for the facility, the CSFSF will begin accepting used fuel in 2019.

According to OPIC, the 20-year loan will be financed by Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, which is arranging for the sale of OPIC's \$250-million commitment in the U.S. capital markets in the form of fixed-rate bond securities. The Ukraine government will repay the loan through the issuance of a sovereign guarantee.

● China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) announced on Dec. 22, 2017, that a prototype unit of the company's Longzhou-CNSC used nuclear fuel shipping container has passed the acceptance test and is ready for batch production. According to the company, passing the acceptance test signifies that CNNC has succeeded in developing a large-scale used fuel shipping container, filling a technology gap in China for used fuel management and marking a milestone for the country's nuclear program. The Longzhou-CNSC container can hold 21 sets of used fuel assemblies.

● Licensing of a used nuclear fuel repository at Forsmark, Sweden, has been recommended by the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM), which on January 23 submitted to the Swedish government the findings of its regulatory review of the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company's (SKB) license application for the deep geologic repository, along with a license for a separate encapsulation facility.

SKB submitted in 2011 its license applications for the repository at Forsmark on the east coast of central Sweden and the encapsulation facility in the Oskarshamn Municipality on the country's southeast coast. According to SSM, SKB has demonstrated through its license applications and associated safety analysis reports that the facilities can be developed in accordance with Swedish law and with the protection of human

health and the environment.

Sweden's Land and Environment Court, Nacka District, however, issued a statement the same day claiming that more technical information is needed on the copper capsules used to contain the used fuel. According to the court, there are significant uncertainties about the capsules that have not been taken into account in SKB's safety analysis. The court said that, based on SKB's analysis, it cannot confirm the long-term safety of the repository without additional documentation clarifying that the repository is safe even in the case of the capsule's protective capability. The government of Sweden will consider granting the licenses based on the recommendations of SSM and the court.

● Canada's Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) completed borehole drilling near Ignace, Ontario, in January. The drilling to obtain initial core samples and provide access to the rock at depth is part of the NWMO's investigation into suitable sites for a deep geologic repository for Canada's used nuclear fuel.

According to the NWMO, drilling started on Nov. 6, 2017, in a rock formation known as the Revell Batholith, located south of Highway 17, about 35 kilometers (about 22 miles) west of Ignace (between Ignace and Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation). Ignace is one of five regions in Ontario the NWMO currently is studying as potential repository host sites. The other regions include the areas around the communities of Huron-Kinloss, South Bruce, Hornepayne, and Manitowadge.

The NWMO hopes to identify a potential repository site with a suitable rock formation in an area with an informed and willing host. The NWMO expects to be able to select the preferred site for detailed site characterization by about 2023. Further activities to analyze the core samples and explore the borehole at depth are now underway, the NWMO said.

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